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WITCH-HUNT STARTS

Wage Boost

About one million lower paid workers in the German Democratic Republic will get bigger wage packets on October 1st. The average wage increase for these wage groups will be about 250 marks annually — enough to pay the rent for at least five months, or to buy a packet of ten cigarettes every working day of the year.

The wage increase is the result of the abolition of wage districts C and D, mainly country districts in which wages were hitherto lower than elsewhere. The division of the country into four different wage districts, ranging from A, the highest, to D, the lowest, was a relic of capitalist conditions in which industries were attracted to underdeveloped country districts by the provision of lower minimum wage rates. The division was also aimed at undermining trade union solidarity and localising strikes.

The present measure is intended as the first step towards wiping out these differences and reaching a unified wage system throughout the country.

Communists Photographed, Finger-Printed & Cross-Examined

The West German authorities have launched a "cold witch-hunt" against members of the Communist Party in West Germany, following the banning of the party by the West German Constitutional Court on August 17th.

The methods used in the persecution of Communists vary in different districts. In Schleswig Holstein and some parts of North Rhine Westfalia persons known as active Communists are being summoned to their local police stations, cross-examined on their activities, asked for particulars of their place of work and their family, and then forcibly finger-printed and photographed.

Reports from Lower Saxony state that in a number of cases employment exchanges have stamped a red letter "P" political on the unemployment card of known Communists seeking work, a measure reminiscent of the nazi practice of stamping "J" on the documents of Jews.

From other parts of West Germany come reports of the sacking of known Communists.

First report of court prosecution of Communists came from Lower Saxony. The American newsagency United Press reported on September 18th from Lueneburg: "Hermann Goecke, former secretary of the Communist Party for the state of Lower Saxony, was sentenced to four months imprisonment here today on charges of attempting to establish an underground movement. Goecke was convicted of attempting to continue Communist activities despite the recent court action ruling the party illegal."

In many parts of West Germany, particularly in the industrial areas, duplicated or illegally printed Communist newspapers are already in circulation in relatively large editions.

An intensification of the witch-hunt was foreshadowed on September 11th by the "Koelnische Rundschau", organ of Chancellor Adenauer's Democratic Party. The paper stated:

"The ban on the Communist Party will remain a farce unless it is used to halt the activities of the masked Communists. What is good for the Communists is good for their camouflaged assistants. How can we recognise such people? We can recognise them by their deeds ... Anyone who propagates

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IN EAST GERMANY

Specially Written for GERMAN REPORT by Harold Davies, Labour M.P. for Leek

Here I am in East Berlin on a Sunday morning, church bells are ringing, those who want to pay thanks to God do so unmolested.

Not far away is the historic Brandenburg Gate, and walking down Unter den Linden, there on the right is the ghastly wreck of the Reichstag, Hitler's first ruin in Berlin.

Today, in this four-sectored city, thousands and thousands of acres of rubble and ruin still shock and remain as a testimony to the unutterable folly and evil effects of the Nazi regime. Can modern man, in the hydrogen bomb age, be so foolish as to want to repeat all this a thousandfold? Surely not!

Where then does the answer lie? In my search for truth in the German Democratic Republic I have been off the beaten track, travelled some hundreds of

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Harold Davies: IN EAST GERMANY

miles and seen in their daily lives thousands of people at work and at play.

Barren statistics are no substitute for the pulse of the human heart. Wonderful flats, superb schools and mighty factories may not mean human happiness. Stalinstadt, for instance, is probably one of the most beautifully planned cities in the world. A few years ago the area was just forest. Today a great steel plant stands where there were once only trees. A mile or two away is the lovely city with its young enthusiastic population, so young that the average age of the 16,000 people there is 26.

Yes, I did the old routine — into the flats, out of the flats. Rents were a quarter of ours with all "modern conveniences." The kids — of course they were lovely; so are they too in West Germany. What then has the German Democratic Republic to shout about? Some things are worse, some are better than over the border, but the social and economic planning, the tenacity of purpose and confidence is here.

There is some rationing; fats are short, raw materials are scarce, but prices are falling, consumer goods are increasing. There is laughter, plenty of music and pride. When Germany is united, all this effort will make a united Germany all the richer.

The new shipyard at Rostock, which employs 8,000 people and is now making 10,000 ton ships, the Diesel engine works — none of that was there before. It is there now, awaiting the peaceful unification of Germany.

In West Berlin with some of my colleagues I talked for hours with representatives of the Social Democratic Party. I found bitterness both there and in the East. Time perhaps is short. I have no right to interfere in the internal affairs of either East or West. As a Labour M.P. I seek the truth. There is a freer and happier atmosphere in the German Democratic Republic.

Men talk, men criticise, men laugh and joke, but in the East they do not want to lose the land that has been divided up for the peasants or the factories now in the hands of the workers. East and West must get together and a formula for free elections must be found.

The Social Democratic Party will win the West German General Election against Adenauer next year. But moves to understanding should be made, I believe, now. Both sides will have to yield a little so that all the armies of occupation get out, so that Germany becomes united and for the sake of world peace.

The German Democratic Republic wants peace, the trappings of war are not glorified. Let us then move forward to a peaceful united Germany. Our gardens need to be cultivated and our swords forever sheathed.

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WITCH-HUNT STARTS

by word or writing the rejection of military service is obviously acting under other instructions than the instructions of his own conscience.

"Anyone who uses the regrettable raping of a girl . . . in order to make propaganda against the army of one of our allies, is obviously in the service of a foreign power which need not be named.

"Anyone who suggests that the geographical line, on both sides of which troops might be limited, should not run along the eastern frontier of the German Reich, but rather through the middle of Germany, undoubtedly works for the Soviet Union."

The leaders of one of West Germanu's biggest trade unions must be screened, an official spokesman of Chancellor Adenauer's Christian Democratic Party stated on September 12th.

The announcement followed the decision of the annual conference of the Printing and Paper Trade Union of West Germany to support talks between trade unions in East and West Germany. A resolution passed by the conference stated in part:

"This conference awaits from the (West German) Trade Union Federation the encouragement of contacts with trade union circles in the German Democratic Republic which can lead to an open and unhindered discussion of the problems of reunification, and which could prepare for the creation of a united Germany in peace and liberty."

This resolution, the first West German trade union resolution calling for talks with unions in East Germany, led to a storm of protest in right-wing West German newspapers.

An official spokesman of the Christian Democratic Union described the resolution as "a serious warning" and said: "This resolution is insupportable. It makes it necessary to screen the persons who hold the leading positions in the Printing and Paper Trade Union".

British M.P.s Make East-West Contact

British Labour M.P.s visiting Berlin have established the first contact between the West German Social Democratic Party and the East German Socialist Unity Party, Mr. Ben Parkin, Labour M.P. for North Paddington told a press conference in East Berlin on September 23rd.

Mr. Parkin explained that in the course of a one-week visit to the German Democratic Republic he and the other Labour M.P.s with him had had a long discussion with leading members of the Socialist Unity Party. "We asked questions about the recent release of many prisoners, including many members of the Social Democratic Party" Mr. Parkin said. "Hermann Matern (Deputy Chairman of the East German People's Chamber) told us that his party had often asked the West German Social Democrats to supply lists of people whom they claimed were in prison on account of their Social Democratic activities, but had never received any direct reply.

"Yesterday we met Social Democratic leaders in West Berlin, and had a valuable discussion with them. In the course of this discussion we mentioned the question of prisoners. We asked for the list. We were given the list with the names of 32 alleged Social Democrats on it, and were given permission to present this list to the authorities here. I presented the list to Herr Matern this morning. He appeared delighted to receive it, and assured me that it would be very carefully examined."

THIS IS WHAT THEY LEARN

"1933 and All That" in West German Schools

By John Peet

What do West German schoolchildren learn in their history lessons? Are they told the truth at school about Hitler's war against Europe and the world, the truth about the nazi war crimes?

In an amateur attempt to find out, I have been studying a number of West German school books. The school system in West Germany is very decentralised, and a thorough study of all the history books used in the schools would take months.

So I selected six books at random from the many dozens in regular use. A superficial glance through the books seemed to show that they were not so bad: Hitler was criticised, most of the books appeared to mention the nazi persecuton of the Jews, and so on.

But then I got down to an intensive study; and as a result of this study I must state categorically that a large proportion of the young people in West Germany are not receiving, at the most impressionable age, anything like an adequate or true picture of recent German history.

I should like to be as fair as possible. None of the books praises Hitler, though most of them find some warm words for his success in abolishing unemployment between 1933—39, for building the autobahn trunk roads and so on. All of the books criticise Hitler's treatment of the Jews, though some of them confine their criticism to such mild phrases as "regrettable" and "misuse of the racial idea", and one of them even manages to deal with the persecution of the Jews without even suggesting that this persecution culminated in the murder of millions.

But, and this is the other side of the picture, the criticism of Hitler is mainly confined to the fact that he lost the war, that he ignored the advice of his generals, or that he used the wrong policies in the countries occupied by the nazi armies, thus failing to win the support of the Russians, the Poles, the French, and so on. In the history book used in the schools of Baden, for instance, written by a certain Dr Hans Herzfeld, we find this typical sentence: "In France, as in the other occupied countries, Hitler, by failing to pursue a moderate policy, failed to make the military victories fruitful" (p. 153).

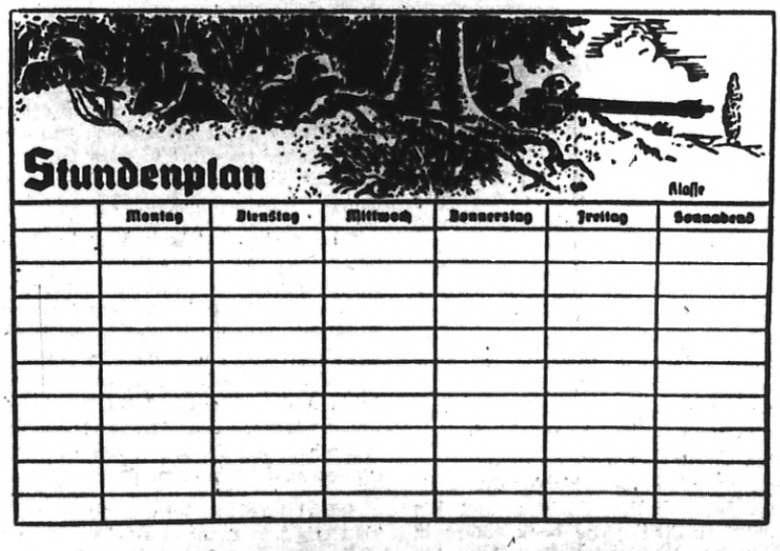
This sentence is disarming in its clarity: there is no objection to the military victories and the occupation: the only objection is that Hitler applied the wrong policies after the victories, and thereby allegedly robbed Germany of their fruits.

(Full details of the titles, authors and publishers of the various West German history books are given at the conclusion of this article. For convenience the books will be referred to in the course of the article only by the author's name.)

As I have already stated, most of the books deal to some extent with Hitler's crimes against the Jews: but it is a remarkable fact that this is the only nazi crime which is given anything approaching adequate treatment. With one single honourable exception, the other nazi crimes are either not mentioned at all, or are vaguely referred to in passing. In some cases, indeed, these crimes are described as German reprisals for alleged atrocities committed by the resistance movements in the occupied countries. Simonsen, for instance, states: "Upon the outbreak of war, the Poles vented their hate against the Germans in a frightful outbreak of murder" (p. 127), and Pinnow alleges: "At the beginning of the war the Poles wreaked a frightful bloodbath on the Germans in their country" (p. 175). A few pages later Pinnow claims "The partisans ... and underground movements contributed greatly to the increase in atrocities" (p. 179).

The honourable exception, mentioned above, to the general line taken by these history books is the book written by Professor Koselleck and used in the schools of Hesse and Schleswig Holstein. I would dispute many of Professor Koselleck's formulations and conclusions, but his book is the only one of the six books under examination which does refer at some length to the crimes of the SS, to the fiendish medical experiments in the concentration camps and to various other measures for the "Germanisation of the East". Professor Koselleck's book is also, incidentally, the only one of the six which mentions the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials in a factual manner.

And this brings me to the treatment in these history books of the questions of the Nuremberg Trials. One book, as noted, mentions the trials shortly and factually. One



School time table form widely used in West German schools

book completely ignores the subject. But the other four books all criticise the conviction of the war criminals. They allege that witnesses committed perjury, that the accused were tortured, and so on. Full details of the treatment of the Nuremberg Trials is given below.

Another point about these West German history books perhaps deserves mention. They are mostly illustrated, and I have checked the illustrations carefully. They include pictures of nazi soldiers in heroic poses, German tanks, allied ships being sunk by nazi U-boats, and so on. The only pictures of destruction are pictures of German cities ruined in allied air attacks: not one of the books shows a picture of concentration camps, crematoriums, or the damage done by the Wehrmacht or the Luftwaffe.

The suggestions for homework given in Scherl's history book, used in Bavarian schools, may be of interest. They include the following: "Tell what you know about the most important parts of a U-boat — the conning tower, the periscope, the torpedo tube" (p. 85), and "Collect pictures of German military cemeteries from the First and Second World Wars" (p. 112).

In the next few columns we present you with more detailed excerpts from some of these West German history books. For purposes of comparison the extracts from the West German books are followed by short excerpts on the same subjects from the standard history book used in the schools of the German Democratic Republic.

Nazi persecution

All the West German school books mention Hitler's persecution of the Jews, and several of them give some details of the mass extermination. Other nazi war crimes and crimes against humanity receive little or no mention: none of the books refer to the liquidation of Oradour in France and Lidice in Czechoslovakia or give any details of the mass executions of hostages and prisoners of war or the millions of Polish, Russian and other civilians killed by the nazis.

Herzfeld refers to the "gassing of millions of Jews" and then continues "The German people as a whole cannot be made responsible for this anti-Semitism of the Fuehrer and his party" (p. 129). The book refers in passing to "the sharpening character of war methods due to the actions of the Gestapo and SS" but then claims

Potsdam

What did the Potsdam Agreement, concluded in 1945 by Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union have to say about education in Germany? Here is the relevant paragraph:

"German education shall be so controlled as completely to eliminate nazi and militarist doctrines and to make possible the successful development of democratic ideas."

"The army again and again avoided carrying out the most brutal orders such as the shooting of imprisoned officers and political commissars" (p. 159).

Koselleck refers at some length to the liquidation of "several million Jews", and is the only one of the books under review to mention the medical experiments made on concentration camp inmates. The book also mentions deportations and executions in occupied Poland. It is claimed that the German people as a whole knew nothing about the nazi crimes: "Rumours about the treatment of concentration camp prisoners brought great danger to anyone who spread them ... The SS developed careful camouflage methods, so that this and many other crimes of the (nazi) system only became known to the German people after the end of the war" (p. 71).

Pinnow admits nazi crimes against the Jews and states that millions of Jews were murdered. Nazi oppression in Poland is summed up in these words: "At the beginning of the war the Poles wreaked a frightful bloodbath on the Germans in their country ... Then the national socialist far exceeded the crimes of the Poles. Prisoners were shot and workers for agriculture and industry were dragged away in large numbers to Germany" (p. 163). War crimes in other countries are not mentioned, and the book makes an effort to show that the German people as a whole knew nothing of these crimes (p. 175).

Traber states: "According to statistics prepared by the Government of Israel, six million Jews fell victim to the Hitler regime. East Poland, under Russian rule, had an even worse fate" (p. 179). It is mentioned in passing that Polish intellectuals were persecuted and hundreds of thousands of Polish workers deported to Germany. No other details are given of nazi crimes against humanity.

Scherl devotes a total of six lines to "Hitler's treatment of Jewish citizens who were forced to emigrate ... or were confined in concentration camps" (p. 97). The book does not refer at all to the nazi liquidation of millions of Jews, or to any other nazi crimes. The expulsion of Germans from East Europe at the end of the war, however, is referred to in these terms: "Hard-working Germans were robbed of all their property and driven from their homes under dreadful torture" (p. 115).

(The standard history textbook used in all schools in Democratic Germany devotes five whole pages to Hitler's racial policy, nazi concentration camps, the murder of millions of Jews, Poles, Russians and German opponents of nazism (pp. 266 to 269). — more than five times as much space as any West German book. Full details are given of fascist crimes in occupied Europe, and these crimes are outspokenly condemned.)

Nazi Aggression

Most of the books present the nazi seizure of Austria and the Sudeten area of Czechoslovakia as simple acts of frontier re-adjustment which need no particular comment.

Koselleck states: "In order to maintain order in Austria, the National Socialist Minister of the Interior Seyss-Inquart called in German troops" (p. 52). "The Sudetenland was allowed to join the Reich" (p. 53).

Scherl writes: "The Saar, Austria and the Sudetenland were united with the motherland" (p. 100).

Traber prints in bold type the claim that the nazi annexation of the Sudetenland was a "righting of the injustice inflicted in 1918" (p. 131).

Simonsen states: "The Anschluss of Austria to the German Reich was the result of the unanimous wish of the Austrian people to be absorbed in the German Reich" (p. 122). "The incorporation of the Sudeten Germans in the German Reich ... resulted from the fact that the Czechs had made no efforts to win over the various nationalities ... and that the Reich felt itself threatened" (p. 123).

* * *

Most of the books under review simply report the nazi attack on the Soviet Union without comment. **Herzfeld,** however, repeatedly describes the attack as "defensive war" in passages such as these: "Hitler had begun with his military plans for a preventive war against Russia" (p. 157). "Through his preventive attack on Russia Hitler had unleashed war on multiple fronts" (p. 158).

(The East German standard school history book states on these subjects: "Austria was the first country in Europe which fell victim to the fascist robbers" [p. 243]. "The nazis

provoked clashes with the Czechoslovak police ... Hitler committed a new act of aggression, robbing Czechoslovakia not only of the Sudeten area, but of almost all Czechoslovak territory bordering on what was then the 'Reich' [p. 244—246]. "Hitler tore up the non-aggression pact and launched the war of aggression of the German imperialists against the Soviet Union" p. [261.].)

War Crimes Trials and Denazification

The attitude of the West German schoolbooks is shown perhaps most clearly in their comments on the trials of nazi war criminals and the denazification campaign.

Herzfeld states: "Although it was inevitable and necessary that the war criminals should be punished, these trials, which were mainly held in conformity with Anglo-Saxon law, wounded deeply the feelings of the German people, particularly since they were extended to include members of the army, who had acted under military orders" (p. 183).

Pinnow states: "In Nuremberg the victors, with Soviet collaboration, staged for a period of years trials of leading National Socialists, and also of leading officials, officers, scientists and economic leaders. In many cases the verdicts pronounced in Nuremberg have been sharply criticised (prosecutors and judges on the side of the victors, perjured witnesses, ill-treatment of defendants, obstacles to defence). The process of so-called 'denazification' was particularly unfortunate ... It was carried out by German layman, who sometimes misused the regulations in a hateful manner" (p. 183).

Scheri states: "The International Military Tribunal met in Nuremberg ... many of the verdicts reached are questioned today. The process of de-nazification destroyed people's belief in the due process of law, and crippled for years the reconstruction of our homeland" (p. 117).

Simonsen states: "The German people have a critical attitude towards these trials, since they are convinced that many of the sentences were unjust, owing to the fact that the prosecutors and judges were still under the influence of hate propaganda, that the prosecution witnesses were very unreliable, that the accused were tortured to get confessions, and that obstacles were placed in the way of the defence ... The process of denazification also caused much bad feeling" (p. 144).

(The East German school book states: "The trial of the main war criminals was held in Nuremberg. Never in human history had such terrible crimes been tried before a court ... The criminals had brought hunger, poverty and misery to uncounted numbers. Twelve of the main war criminals were sentenced to death by hanging" (p. 330).)

Partisan Warfare

Most of the books make very little mention of partisan warfare or the European resistance movements. There are two important exceptions however.

Pinnow states: "Behind the (eastern) front Stalin ordered the organisation of partisan units. These units later bragged that they had killed 300,000 German soldiers and officers. German counter-measures also went beyond the limits of international law" (p. 169). "The partisans in Russia and the Balkans, and the underground movements in other occupied countries contributed greatly to the increase in atrocities" (p. 179).

Simonsen states: "The length of the lines of communication made the war in Russia very difficult. In addition there was the activity of the partisans, who, according to Russian statistics, have the lives of 300,000 Germans on their consciences" (p. 133).

(The East German school history book states: "Behind the lines in the territory occupied by the fascists, partisan detachments were established, fully supported by the population. They waged a planned guerrilla war against the German imperialist conquerors" [p. 262].)

The full titles of the West German school history textbooks analysed on these pages are as follows:

Herzfeld. "Grundriss der Geschichte" Vol. IV. By Dr Hans Herzfeld. Published by Ernst Klett, Stuttgart, 1954. Authorised for school use by the Education Ministry, Baden.

Koselleck. "Geschichte fuer Mittel und Realschulen" Vol. 4b. By Professor A. Koselleck. Published by Moritz Diesterweg, Frankfurt/Main 1955. Authorised for school use by the Education Ministry, Hesse, and the Education Ministry, Schleswig-Holstein.

Pinnow. "Geschichtliches Unterrichtswerk" Vol. IVa. By Dr Hermann Pinnow and Fritz Textor. Published by Ernst Klett, Stuttgart, 1955. Authorised for school use by the Education Ministry, Baden.

Traber. "Lehrbuch der Geschichte" Vol. 4. By Dr Theodor Traber. Published by Johannes Borgmeyer, Bonn, 1952. Authorised for school use by the Education Ministry, North-Rhine Westfalia.

Scherl. "Geschichte unseres Volkes" Vol. 4. By Josef Scherl. Published by Oldenbourg, Munich, 1954. Authorised for use in Bavarian schools.

Simonsen. "Geschichtsbuch für Real- und Mittelschulen" Vol. V. By Fritz Simonsen. Published by Ernst Klett, Stuttgart, 1953.

The school history book used in the German Democratic Republic, quoted for purposes of comparison, is "Lehrbuch für den Geschichtsunterricht" published for the Ministry of Education of the German Democratic Republic by Volk und Wissen, Berlin, 1952.

MAYORS REFUSE TO AID CONSCRIPTION

Local mayors in at least 58 villages and small towns in the West German province of Hessen have refused to compile lists of young men due for the call-up to the new West German Wehrmacht, the West German news-agency DPA reported on September 14th.

The conscription law recently passed by the West German parliament laid down that such lists of all 19-year-olds due for conscription must be prepared by the local authorities. The West German agency report stated that 19 of the local mayors had refused to submit such lists because of conscientious objections, and a further 39 mayors had claimed that they could not do the work because they had no funds available.

A spokesman of the West German Defence Ministry threatened that if the mayors did not submit the lists they would be forced to relinquish their posts.

Nazi Field Marshal Goering's former public relations officer, Erich Gritzbach, receives a pension of 1293 marks (over 100 marks monthly) from the West German Government, it was disclosed in West Berlin on September 13th. Gritzbach, who held the rank of Colonel in the black-uniformed SS, was author of a fulsome biography of the nazi leader, in which he particularly praised him for "wiping out the Marxists", and for establishing concentration camps.

"SS WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT" — West German Spokesman

Former officers of Hitler's black-uniformed SS will be reintegrated in the new West German Wehrmacht whether the public likes it or not, a spokesman of the West German Defence Ministry told journalists in Bonn on September 18th.

"We do not intend to change our attitude because of public protests" the spokesman declared. The press conference was called following widespread protests in West Germany against the announcement made on September 6th that all SS officers up to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel could now be reintegrated in the new Wehrmacht in their old ranks.

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The Bavarian provincial government has officially protested against the decision of the West German Government to re-integrate former SS officers in the new Wehrmacht in their old ranks. "This decision is calculated to ruin the reputation of the Federal Government", said an official statement issued by the Bavarian provincial government on September 14th. "It is the ultimate absurdity that the Federal Ministry of Defence should decide to entrust leading posts in the new Federal Army to the most consistent and cynical enemies of democracy, men who aided and supported National Socialism."

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Particularly strong protests were made by the Jewish communities in both West and East Germany, pointing out that the SS had been mainly responsible for the liquidation of the Jews, and that it was declared a "criminal organisation" by the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg in 1946.

The weekly newspaper "Vorwaerts", official organ of the West German Social Democratic Party, stated on September 14th: "The inclusion in the Wehrmacht of officers of the type who made their careers as murderers and sadists under the regime of the brown tyrants must be prevented at all costs. Otherwise we shall soon have the position that a recruit to the army will find himself under the command of an officer who brutally mishandled or even murdered his father or his brother, women and children, Christians and Jews."

The partial re-habilitation of the SS by the West German government has encouraged leading officers of the murder organisation to call for their full rehabilitation. Former SS General Kurt Meyer, sentenced to death after the war for the murder of Canadian prisoners and later reprived, told a meeting of SS men at Minden on September 15th "All SS men sentenced to prison were sentenced for crimes which they did not commit. We must now fight for their full rehabilitation."

W. GERMAN PAPER ON "VENGEANCE TALK"

The soldiers of the new West German Wehrmacht are already being taught that it will be their task to reconquer their "lost homeland" in Eastern Europe, the liberal West German newspaper "Frankfurter Rundschau" warned on September 13th. "Officers stir up resentment and awaken thoughts of vengeance" the paper stated. In view of the importance of this article we reproduce it in full on this page.

We already have over two dozen garrisons, a number of panzer, panzergrenadier, artillery, infantery, marine and air-force training schools and two officers' schools. The great danger is not that recruits are being trained again. The danger lies in quite another direction. For instance, a training officer recently delivered a lecture to young fliers in one of our new pilots' schools entitled "Lost Homeland between the Weichsel and Memel" (in Poland, ed.); and a Federal Defence Force officer with the rank of battalion commander remarked to a civilian visitor: "Your objections are all very well and good, but there's only one thing which makes sense to me. The Russians killed my father, and I shall never forget it."

About fifty percent of the officers' corps of the Federal Defence forces come from East Germany (German Democratic Republic and the former German territories east of the Oder-Neisse frontier, ed.). Of course not everybody talks constantly about what was taken away from him over there; but the lost homeland again has its place in the order of the day. The slogan about "injustice done to the nation" circulates amongst the troops. Officers stir up resentment — purposely or not — and awaken thoughts of vengeance — consciously or unconsciously. That is the danger.

The danger is especially serious because this time it is not merely a question of Alsace-Lorraine, Danzig or the Polish corridor, but of half Germany, of the "lost homeland" west of the Elbe river, and because not only the refugees, but almost every single one of us has some relative or some object behind the iron curtain to which we are attached — even if it is only a mother's grave. It is a senseless idea to want to free this something, but it is also a sacred idea. Anyone who suggests the contrary puts himself automatically in the wrong.

The danger is great, too, since there is a considerable difference between the civilian Karl Schulze from Koenigsberg enthusing over beautiful East Prussia with his girl friend and Federal Defence Major Karl Schulze inoculating his men with ideas about the "lost homeland" and "injustice inflicted on the nation".

This is especially dangerous because there is a certain amount of truth in these ideas and because the men to whom the ideas are being preached are in the process of learning how and for what purpose weapons are used.

The soldiers are no sooner there again than we have an object for which — and against which — they can march. "An invasion? Impossible. It is technically impossible", is the answer of professional Federal Army strategists.

This objection makes it quite clear how far ahead the militarists are thinking: it is still technically impossible to "march out". The Federal Army is still in its infancy, American and (a few) British troops are still stationed in West Germany and Soviet troops in East Germany. But one day the Federal Army will be there, perhaps even in 500,000-man strength according to the Chancellor's orders; one day the last American company will depart from here and the last Russian company from over there.

The West German officers who are already talking about the "lost homeland" and about "never being able to forget" will certainly not lower their voices then. Whether by that time the politicians will either be able or wish to keep the military within bounds is a question which cannot easily be answered in the affirmative — considering the attitude of many of our political figures today.

The people will not be exactly jubilant if the situation becomes serious; but jubilant or not, they will — as always — not be asked, but will simply be called to the colours. The regiments have not all received their colours yet, but commanders and training officers are already writing up their fighting slogans.

These are old slogans, but they are still capable of attracting; and the biggest draw of all will again be the "fight against the injustice which has been done to us and to our people". This can conjure up war-like thoughts in even the most pacifist-minded German.

Of course, things have still not reached this stage. But the future has already begun. The signal already points to danger.

Unions Move to Help Women Workers

Trade union factory groups in Democratic Germany must take intensive steps to help women workers, the Central Board of the Free German Trade Unions decided on September 19th.

The Central Board approved a "Programme for the further improvement in the conditions of working women" which places this task in the forefront of the work of all factory trade union committees in the coming months. The programme lays down that the factory trade union organisations must take big steps in the following fields:

1. The provision of more nursery schools and day nurseries for the children of working mothers.

2. The installation of more factory laundries, shoe repair shops etc.

3. The encouragement of women to attend special training courses fitting them for more qualified jobs, and special measures to care for their children while they are attending such courses.

All women in the German Democratic Republic receive equal pay for equal work, and many factories already provide nursery school and day nursery facilities. Not enough has yet been done, however, to give women workers all the necessary assistance so that they can develop their abilities to the full. The new programme is aimed to remove these difficulties as far as possible.

The Central Board of the Free German Trade Unions also decided at its meeting that elections to the factory trade union committees should be held throughout the Republic in the period beginning on October 15th 1956. It would be advisable to complete all the elections before the end of the year, the Board proposed.

Democratic Germany Supports Egypt

The German Democratic Republic fully supports the attitude of the Egyptian Government on the Suez Canal issue, Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl told Egyptian journalists visiting the Republic on September 14th.

"I should like to take this opportunity of re-iterating that the German Democratic Republic feels complete solidarity with Egypt and with all Arab countries on this question" Prime Minister Grotewohl stated. "We understand well the importance of your struggle for the defence of your national sovereignty, particularly since the German Democratic Republic has to use all its strength to defend the sovereignty of the German people against the efforts of the west."

Prime Minister Grotewohl stressed that the German Democratic Republic, as successor state of one of the signatories of the Convention of 1888, and as a user of the Suez canal, was ready and willing to participate in the international conference on the Canal proposed by President Nasser. The German Democratic Republic was also very willing to expand the present flourishing economic relations with Egypt.

The Egyptian journalists' delegation, which made a fact-finding trip through the Republic, consisted of Abdel Moneim Shemes, head of the press department of the Egyptian Ministry for National Orientation, and leading representatives of the main Egyptian newspapers, including Akhbar el Yom, Al Ahram, Al Gumhuyri, Dar al Hilal and others.

Closer Cooperation with Czechoslovakia

The German Democratic Republic and Czechoslovakia will cooperate even more closely in future in the political, economic, technical and cultural fields. The measures to be taken in this connection were agreed in Prague on September 11th at the conclusion of five days of talks between government representatives of the two countries.

The joint communique, issued at the conclusion of the talks, was signed by Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl for the German Democratic Republic, and Viliam Siroky for the Czechoslovak Republic. The main points made by the communique were as follows:

1. The two sides will take all steps to increase economic cooperation, particularly in the fields of heavy engineering and transport. A long term trade agreement for 1957—60 will shortly be concluded, providing for a doubling of the present level of trade.

2. Czechoslovakia will support the claim of the German Democratic Republic to be represented in all relevant international organisations.

3. Both governments agree that the peaceful and democratic reunification of Germany is a matter for the Germans themselves, and that it can only be settled by understanding between the two German states.

4. The German Democratic Republic supports the Czechoslovak Republic in its efforts to normalise relations with the (West) German Federal Republic.

The communique stated that the two states had reached full agreement on the main international questions, such as limitation of armaments, the peaceful use of atomic energy, and the creation of a system of collective security in Europe.

Flights to Moscow

Passenger planes of the East German Lufthansa will begin a regular passenger service from Berlin to Moscow on October 7th, it was announced in Berlin. The civil airline network of the German Democratic Republic already flies regular services to Prague, Budapest, Sofia, Bucharest and Warsaw. On September 17th the East German Lufthansa concluded a general agency agreement linking the Lufthansa with the Dutch airline KLM.

GUEST NOTEBOOK

By Joan Becker

I usually avoid exhibitions like the plague, because they are so often just plain dull; but a friend suggested I really should have a look at one called "Woman's World" in the German Sports Hall in East Berlin.

The exhibitors do intend to tell women about developments since 1945, about various improvements and new laws, but they manage to do it almost entirely in pictures, and nearly everything you see can be bought or ordered on the spot.

Baby Expert

There are all kinds of electrical and labour-saving devices, clothing, shoes and accessories and a whole section of much simpler and more attractive babies' clothes, a baby expert who prepares baby foods and explains diet problems at her stand, and a public health worker explaining about the mothers' milk service which now has a network of collecting centres almost covering East Berlin.

I had no time to taste the dishes cooked in the model kitchen, but they looked all right to me; this is really helpful in Berlin, since cooking here is extraordinarily dull, and almost everybody overcooks — especially vegetables.

Another section describes in diagrams and photographs what the public health service and the factories themselves do to make life easier for working women, and here the little cinema helps; from 3 o'clock onwards they show short educational films on schools, children's holidays, kindergartens and so on.

Autographs

I liked the spreads of photographs of well-known East German women writers, variety artists, actresses, women producers, women on the land and in industry; and there is even an autograph-hunters' section where you can buy photographs of your favourites. Authors come here two or three times a week and sign copies of their books too.

For years our furniture factories could not tear themselves away from the good old family suite — dark wood with lots of carving, heavy beds which no ordinary housewife can move without help, and inconvenient kitchen fittings. But the models shown here will be on the market in 1957 and they are an enormous improvement.

I saw pleasant light easy chairs with sweeping lines, light expanding tables and a charming single bedroom set, the simple bed with cheerfully patterned washable mattress covers and a matching chest where bedclothes can be packed during the day and the bed used as a couch.

Cupboard Bed

But what specially interested me was a really smoothrunning collapsible wall bed shown by a private Berlin firm which has a porous rubber mattress — something quite new here, by the way — and can be closed up during the day to look like a low wall cupboard.

There was a cheerful kindergarten room, a carpenters' workshop for the carpentry classes which got under way in all East German schools this term, and a factory women's rest room, which I did not like; it was the sort of room you would only go into of you felt ill, and I have seen many much more attractive rest-rooms in factories here.

There was also a beautiful selection of sketches and paintings of famous German women — Anna Seghers, Clara Zetkin, Rosa Luxemburg, Kaethe Kollwitz — and some of Kaethe Kollwitz' own wonderful drawings of women and children, as well as a little group of classical and modern paintings and sculptures of women and children.

The porcelain and glassware shown are to my mind still far too heavily decorated and unpractical in form. I saw only one dinner service in white and gold and one interesting fruit set in half-inch thick glass which I would care to get as presents, for instance.

There is a big sportswomen's section, but not being much of a sportswoman I can't pronounce on the canoes, skates, skis, tennis racquets, gymnastic apparatus and so on. There were some attractive pullovers and training and ski suits, though.

Chinese Brocade

Half of the big sports arena has been turned into a cafe and there are dancing, variety entertainments and mannequin parades here every evening, but what I liked best down here was an exhibition of dress models in perlon, silk and Chinese brocade, dominated — by way of comparison — by three late 19th century models, one of them a horror in pink and white satin damask with black and wihte lace trimmings.

Up until the last year or two women were really thankful to find something to wear — they had little chance to bother about what they were wearing; but now that East Germany is able to import more semi-luxury goods and women have a little money left over after buying everyday necessities, they want to dress attractively again.

Eastern Vogue

The first number of "Sibylle", first glossy-paper fashion magazine to appear in the German Democratic Republic, was published in East Berlin this month. It is not a serious competitor of Vogue yet, I think, but it is an enormous improvement on anything which had appeared here previously.

The new magazine has several pages of the latest Paris fashions, managing to avoid the most extravagant ones, but giving a good idea of what well-dressed women in the West will be wearing this autumn, and some really very nice new models from Prague and Warsaw.

One of the very good points about the new magazine is that it is likely to create a real demand for more smartness in women's styles. Some of the clothing manufacturers, and buyers for dress shops have in the past always played safe, just making and buying the conservative sort of clothes which they knew sold well last year — or even two years ago.

Apart from the new models, the new fashion magazine has all the usual extras — tips for hair-styles, fashions for plumper women (the delightful German term for outsizes is "styles for the fully-slim"), hats and accessories, and some really beautiful ways of making up the Indian saris which have been on sale here relatively cheaply in the past few months.

Then there are the usual short stories, jokes and so on. The magazine carries a fair quantity of advertising, but it is unlikely ever to rival the fat glossy-paper women's magazines in the western world, since there simply do not exist here the enormous quantities of fashion firms competing for the luxury and semi-luxury trade.

All in all, it was a very good beginning, and there is a real public demand for such a magazine: the first very large edition was sold out completely as soon as it reached the news-stands.

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